

automatically adjusting the selection of the covering of said gap as a function of the undesired collection of debris and/or wood products within the non-covered portion of said gap to thereby enhance the passage of debris through said gap while minimizing the passage of desirable wood product through said gap.

Claim 12. The method of Claim 11 and including the step of biasing the selection of covering of said gap toward maximal coverage of said gap while still providing for the preferential passage of debris through said gap.

### **ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE**

Apparatus for self-clearing of clogs developed between adjacent ends of upstream and downstream conveyors adapted to carry products thereon in the course of transfer of the products past a gap defined between the conveyors. The apparatus comprises a shield disposed between the adjacent ends of the conveyors and adapted to cover less than all of the gap between the conveyors and having a proximal side edge disposed adjacent the end of the downstream conveyor, thereby defining an opening for the discharge of debris from the products being transferred between the conveyors through the opening. The shield is mounted for selected degrees of covering relationship to the gap between the conveyors. Means is provided for biasing the shield toward a position of maximal covering of the gap while permitting automatic movement of the shield toward a position of reduced covering of the gap as a function of the application of a force against said shield occasioned by the initiation of a clog by the products being transferred between the shield and the downstream conveyor.